

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 078220

10

ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 INR-10

DODE-00 CIAE-00 H-03 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 /164 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:DPASSAGE/NAVY:EBARBER:ILB

APPROVED BY PM - MR. WEISS

EUR/SOV - MR. WILKINSON

EUR/RPM - LTC THOMPSON

NEA/RA - MR. CHASE

AF/RA - MR. NAVEZ

EA/RA - MR. FINCH

INR/RSG - MR. MEYERS

NAVY OP- 0 - MR. BARBER

DOD/ISA/NESA - CDR.0 8:(SICK

JCS/J-5- COL. PATER

C - MR. TERRELL

S/S:WHLUERS

----- 101254

R 172149Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 078220

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
CINCPAC
COMIDEASTFOR
CINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCLANT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 078220

CINCPAC FOR POLAD
COMIDEASTFOR FOR POLAD
CINCEUR FOR POLAD
CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLAD
CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, XO, US
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 078220

SUBJECT: SOVIET ACTIVITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA

REF: A. STATE 19914, 31 JAN 74
B. STATE 43191, 4 MAR 74
C. STATE 50727, 13 MAR 74
D. JCS 072206Z MAR 74

1. MANY OF YOU ON THE INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL HAVE

REQUESTED BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT SOVIET MILITARY
ACTIVITY AND FACILITIES IN THE REGION.

2. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN
STATE'S THREE CABLES ABOVE REMAINS VALID. THE FIRST OF
THESE IS THE ESSENTIAL RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION TO DEPLOY
NAVAL FORCES INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA; THE SECOND IS
GUIDANCE DIRECTED BY THE SECRETARY ON US/SOVIET MILITARY
RESTRAINT IN THE AREA; AND THE THIRD IS THE TESTIMONY GIVEN
BY STATE'S WITNESS BEFORE THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA.
IN CAPSULE FORM, OUR DECISION TO SEEK AGREEMENT WITH THE
UK, AND FUNDS FROM THE CONGRESS, FOR AN EXPANSION OF
FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA--AS WELL AS OUR NAVAL
DEPLOYMENTS INTO THE AREA GENERALLY--ARE BASED ON AN
APPRECIATION OF OUR OWN INTERESTS IN A PRESENCE IN THE AREA.
THEY ARE NOT IN RESPONSE TO ANY PARTICULAR LEVEL OF SOVIET

OR OTHER SHIP DEPLOYMENTS INTO THE AREA, BUT RATHER HAVE
BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED IN THE TOTAL CONTEXT OF OUR
OVERALL POLITICAL AND MILITARY
STRATEGY FOR THE REGION.

THIS, IN TURN, IS DETERMINED BY A MUCH BROADER RANGE OF
FACTORS THAN SIMPLY THE CURRENT LEVEL OF SOVIET NAVAL
ACTIVITY IN THE REGION.

3. THE FOLLOWING GENERAL DATA, THEREFORE, IS PRIMARILY
FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION. IT IS UNCLASSIFIED, AND MAY BE
USED TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES FROM PUBLIC, PRESS, HOST
GOVERNMENT, AND THIRD COUNTRY OFFICIALS. REF D WAS SENT
TO DAO'S IN MOST LITTORAL STATES. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED
THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES AMONG MEMBERS OF THE INTELLI-
GENCE COMMUNITY, AND NOT ALL FIGURES GIVEN IN THIS OR
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 078220

OTHER TELEGRAMS ARE AGREED UPON. FIGURES THUS SHOULD BE
SPOKEN OF AS APPROXIMATIONS.

4. THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF SOVIET
NAVAL SHIPS PRESENT AT ANY GIVEN TIME, BY YEAR, IN THE
INDIAN OCEAN. "COMBATANT" INCLUDES CRUISERS, DESTROYERS,
DESTROYER ESCORTS, MINESWEEPERS, SUBMARINES, AND
AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS. FIGURES FOR 1972 AND 1973 INCLUDE
FIVE TO TWELVE SHIPS IN THE FIRST YEAR AND AN AVERAGE OF
EIGHT IN THE SECOND WHICH WERE ENGAGED IN HARBOR-CLEARING
OPERATIONS IN BANGLADESH.

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
COMBATANTS	2	3	5	4	10	10
TOTAL SHIPS	2	11	11	11	24	24

5. ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE INCREASE IN SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY IS THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWING DEPLOYMENTS OF GENERAL-PURPOSE NAVAL SHIPS TO THE INDIAN OCEAN MEASURED IN SHIP-DAYS PER YEAR. THESE FIGURES EXCLUDE SPACE SUPPORT AND OCEANOGRAPHIC OPERATIONS SHIPS. THE 1972 AND 1973 FIGURES INCLUDE ABOUT 2500 SHIP-DAYS EACH YEAR FOR HARBOR-CLEARING OPERATIONS IN BANGLADESH. WHILE THESE FIGURES ARE SOMEWHAT AT VARIANCE WITH THOSE PROVIDED IN REF D, THE FOLLOWING TABLE WAS THAT USED IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CONGRESS.

-	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
SHIP DAYS	1106	2022	3726	3149	7096	8262

6. THE SOVIETS HAVE PERIODICALLY OPERATED LONG-RANGE MILITARY AIRCRAFT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS SUCH AS SPACE, SUPPORT, AND MARITIME RECONNAISSANCE. THE RESULT HAS BEEN TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF SOVIET PRESENCE AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE USSR HAS THE

CAPABILITY AND THE WILL TO OPERATE STRATEGIC WEAPONS SYSTEMS IN THE REGION. SOVIET MILITARY AIRLIFT CAPABILITY WAS GRAPHICALLY DEMONSTRATED TO THE LITTORAL STATES WHEN THE SOVIET UNION SUPPORTED THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES AT THE TIME OF THE INDO-PAKISTAN WAR IN SEPTEMBER 1971 WITH A SIGNIFICANT AIRLIFT EFFORT.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 078220

7. IN ADDITION TO THE TESTIMONY GIVEN BY STATE'S WITNESS IN THE HOUSE HEARINGS (REF C), THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS ARE DRAWN FROM THE STATEMENT BY ADMIRAL ZUMWALT, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, BEFORE THE SAME COMMITTEE IN OPEN HEARINGS:

A. THE SOVIETS RECOGNIZED THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA SOME TIME AGO. SINCE 1968, WE HAVE SEEN A STEADY BUILD-UP BOTH IN THE SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE AND IN SOVIET CAPABILITIES FOR SUPPORT OF MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE AREA. AS A RESULT, THE SOVIETS POSSESS A SUPPORT SYSTEM IN THE AREA THAT IS SUBSTANTIALLY MORE EXTENSIVE THAN THAT OF THE US.

B. THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED FLEET ANCHORAGES AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS, INCLUDING NEAR THE ISLAND OF SOCOTRA, IN THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, AND ELSEWHERE. THESE ANCHORAGES HAVE, IN SOME CASES, PERMANENT MOORING BUOYS. THEY HAVE EXPANDED THEIR USE OF, AND ARE INCREASING FACILITIES AT, THE SOMALI PORT OF BERBERA. THESE FACILITIES INCLUDE A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED COMMUNICATIONS STATION, A BARRACKS

AND REPAIR SHIP, SUBSTANTIAL PETROLEUM STORAGE CAPACITY, HOUSING FOR DEPENDENTS, AND ASSISTANCE IN CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MILITARY AIRPORT NEAR MOGADISCIO. SOVIET NAVAL COMBATANTS HAVE ACCESS TO THE EXPANDED IRAQI PORT OF UMM QASR, BEING BUILT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF SOVIET TECHNICIANS. IN ADDITION, THEY HAVE BEEN ACCORDED USE OF PORT FACILITIES AT ADEN AND AIR FACILITIES AT THE FORMER RAF AIRFIELD NEARBY. THEY MAINTAIN PERSONNEL ASHORE IN ADEN, AND USE THAT PORT FOR REFUELING, REPLENISHMENT, AND MINOR REPAIRS.

C. IN ADDITION TO SPECIFIC SUPPORT FACILITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE SOVIETS ARE EMBARKED ON A WORLDWIDE PROGRAM TO EXPAND BUNKERING AND PORT VISIT RIGHTS FOR THEIR NAVAL, MERCHANT, AND FISHING FLEETS. THE OBJECTIVES WHICH THESE SOVIET ACTIVITIES ARE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT RELATE PRIMARILY TO THE EXPANSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, ENHANCEMENT OF THE SOVIET IMAGE AS A GREAT POWER, AND NEUTRALIZATION OF THE PRC'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 06 STATE 078220

POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND MILITARY POWER. THE SOVIETS

RECOGNIZE, AS WE DO, THAT ANY NATION WHICH HAS THE CAPABILITY TO PROJECT SUBSTANTIAL NAVAL POWER INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN AUTOMATICALLY ACQUIRES SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE NOT ONLY WITH THE LITTORAL COUNTRIES, BUT WITH THOSE OUTSIDE THE AREA WHICH ARE DEPENDENT UPON THE FREE USE OF ITS SEA LANES AS WELL. THE OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL WILL PROVIDE TO THE SOVIETS A FURTHER CAPABILITY FOR RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF THEIR NAVAL FORCES INTO THE AREA.

8. PERHAPS THE MOST VISIBLE EXAMPLE OF THE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE LITTORAL STATES IS MILITARY AID AND ITS CONSTANT COMPANION, MILITARY ADVISORY MISSIONS.

A BROAD SPECTRUM OF SOVIET HARDWARE, INCLUDING TANKS, ARTILLERY, AND JET AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN FURNISHED TO SELECTED LITTORAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING INDIA, SOMALIA, IRAQ, THE PDRY, AND EGYPT.

9. IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS PROVIDED FOR USE ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS, AS POSTS SEE FIT. ADDRESSEES ARE NOT EXPECTED TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN OFFERING IT. KISSINGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, NATIONAL SECURITY, MILITARY BASES, PORT FACILITIES, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, MILITARY VISITS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, COMMITTEE S, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE078220
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DPASSAGE/NAVY:EBARBER:ILB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740089-1111
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740435/aaaabft.tel
Line Count: 273
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 19914, 31 JAN 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <07-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET ACTIVITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA
TAGS: MILI, MARR, XO, US, UK, IO, UR
To: TOKYO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005